IDBI had allocated Rs. 100 crore for the scheme of financing film production and disbursements have been made to the tune of Rs. 40.10 crores till the period ending August 2002.

Narrowcast TV stations in Karnataka

1296. SHRI K.B. KRISHN AMURTHY: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the places where Narrowcast TV Stations have been comm issioned, so far, in the country;

(b) the places where Narrowcast TV Stations are commissioned in Karnataka;

(c) the details of-the programmes being telecast through these Narrowcast TV Stations in Karnataka; and

(d) whether Government would take steps to commission few more such Narrowcast TV Stations in Karnataka?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) and (b) Narrowcasting is proposed from 12 LPTs from one center each in Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Uttaranchal, Haryana, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Karnataka, Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand; and from two centers in Punjab. Limited transmission has been started from 8 centres which are—^Akola (Maharashtra), Hissar (Haryana), Patiala (Punjab), Coimbatore (Tamil Nadu), Palakkad (Kerala), Amalapuram (Andhra Pradesh), Bilaspur (Chhattisgarh), Bcllary (Karnataka).

(c) The programmes produced for narrowcasting are generally on developmental themes containing segments of rural development, agricuhure and allied subjects, rural health and other issues of local importance. Besides, folk music, dance and folk literature are also included in the programmes.

(d) Commissioning of additional narrowcasting TV stations in Karnataka and other states will dpend upon availability of resources.

Terms and conditions of service for employees of Prasar Bharati

1297. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of INFORMATIONA AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether terms and conditions of service for employees of Prasar Bharati have not been finalised, so far;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken for not transferring the employees of AIR./Doordarshan to Prasar Bharati Board till terms and conditions of service for employees are finalised?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The finalisation of terms and conditions of service for Prasar Bharati employees is a prologed process, since it involves inter-Ministerial consultations. While steps were being taken fot finalisation of rules and regulations, including those concerning terms and conditions of service, Joint Forum of Akashvani and Doordarshan Engineering Employees gave a call for strike by the employees demanding, *inter-alia,* their association in the process of framing of the rules and regulations. Prasar Bharati Management has, on 18* September, 2002, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Joint Forum. Accordingly to the MOU, there would be a comprehensive review of various rules and regulations, including those concerning terms and conditions of service.

(c) The transfer of employees of AIR/Doordarshan to Prasar Bharati, under the Prasar Bharati Act, 1990, would be effected after the terms and conditions of service of employees are finalised.

DTH telecast system

†1298. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether some special provisions have been made to bring forth the Direct to Home Telecast System to common people;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the measures taken for safeguarding the Indian culture and stopping deformities in its telecast; and

(d) the details of the arrangements made for testing and approving this system before its telecast?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) and (b) The DTH system generally targets a niche audience, with a higher paying capacity, who want a wide range of television channels, including some premium channels, without depending on any intermediary like the cable operator.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.